Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for ink-jet recording, the apparatus for printing by emitting of a jet of ink onto a printing paper comprising:

ink tanks installed removably in the apparatus, and configured to store ink;

a reservoir tank configured to temporarily store waste ink generated by a printing head, said printing head configured for jetting ink supplied from the ink tanks onto the printing paper;

waste ink tanks formed in one piece with the ink tanks, and configured to store waste ink discharged from the reservoir tank;

a discharging unit configured to discharge waste ink from the reservoir tank into the waste ink tanks; and

a control unit configured to discriminate whether or not the waste ink tanks are empty, and to control the discharging unit to discharge waste ink of a predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the empty waste ink tank.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:

the ink tanks are installed independently for each color of the ink; and the waste ink tanks are paired off and formed in one piece with each of the ink tanks respectively.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising memories configured to store information indicating whether or not each of the waste ink tanks is empty respectively, wherein the control unit discriminates whether or not each of the waste ink tanks is empty based on information stored in the memories, and writes information indicating that the waste ink tank is full to the memory of the waste ink tank to which the waste ink is discharged.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when the plural empty waste ink tanks

are installed, the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge the waste ink into the waste ink tank formed in one piece with the ink tank with a highest supply frequency of the ink.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a waste ink sensor configured to detect the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank, wherein when the control unit detects that the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank exceeds a predetermined quantity based on a detection result of the waste ink sensor, the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the empty waste ink tank.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a waste ink sensor configured to detect the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank, wherein: the control unit discriminates whether or not the waste ink tank formed in one piece with the ink tank which has consumed ink of the predetermined quantity is empty; the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank discriminated as being empty, when the quantity of waste ink detected by the waste ink sensor is more than or equal to the predetermined quantity; and the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge all of the waste ink stored in the reservoir tank into the corresponding empty waste ink tank, when the quantity of waste ink detected by the waste ink sensor is less than the predetermined quantity.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein: the discharging unit is composed of a

pump; and the control unit controls the quantity of the waste ink to be discharged based on a driving duration of the pump.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the waste ink tank includes a pouring mouth configured as a sealing structure.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein when a tank only for waste ink, of the whole which is formed to store waste ink, is installed instead of the ink tank, the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge the waste ink by force into the tank only for the waste ink.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank in multiple steps.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the control unit controls the discharging unit to discharge the waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank in a single step.

17. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling an apparatus for ink-jet recording, the apparatus including ink tanks removably installed in the apparatus and storing an ink for each color of the ink, a reservoir tank temporarily storing a waste ink generated by a printing head, said printing head configured for jetting the ink supplied from the ink tanks onto a printing paper, waste ink tanks formed in one piece with the ink tanks and storing waste ink discharged from the reservoir tank, and a discharging unit discharging waste ink from the reservoir tank into

the waste ink tanks, the method comprising:

storing waste ink generated by the printing head in the reservoir tank;

discriminating whether or not the waste ink tank is empty based on information stored in ~~a~~ said memory indicating whether or not the waste ink tank is empty; and

controlling the discharging unit to discharge waste ink of a predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the empty waste ink tank discriminated.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein when a fresh ink tank is installed in the apparatus and the waste ink tank formed in one piece with the fresh ink tank is discriminated as being empty, the discharging unit is controlled to discharge the waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank discriminated as empty.

19. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the apparatus further includes a waste ink sensor configured to detect the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank; and

when the waste ink sensor detects that the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank exceeds the predetermined quantity and at least one of the waste ink tank is discriminated as being empty, the discharging unit is controlled to discharge the waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank discriminated as empty.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein:

the apparatus further includes a waste ink sensor configured to detect the quantity of waste ink stored in the reservoir tank; and when at least one of the waste ink tank formed in one piece with the ink tank which has consumed ink of the predetermined quantity is discriminated as being empty, the discharging unit is controlled to discharge waste ink of the predetermined quantity stored in the reservoir tank into the waste ink tank discriminated as being empty, if the quantity of the waste ink detected by the waste ink sensor is more than or equal to the predetermined quantity, and the discharging unit is controlled to discharge all of the waste ink stored in the reservoir tank into the corresponding empty waste ink tank, if the quantity of waste ink detected by the waste ink sensor is less than the predetermined quantity.